to improve the body's sensitivity to insulin;

(c) whether Government propose to get the efficacy of the drug studied and get it marketed in the country in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The new drug Troglitazone, said to be marketed by M/s Warner lambert Co. in U.S.A.; by M/s Pfizer Inc. and by M/s Glaxo — Welcome in Europe, is reported to help improve the body's sensitivity to insulin. Troglitazone is claimed to be a first in a new class of drugs known as Asthiazolidinediones which reduce insulin resistance. It is indicated for type II diabetes where blood sugar is inadequately controlled by insulin therapy.

(c) and (d) No application has been filed by any firm with Drug Controller (India) to market the said drug in the country.

Supply of old mother tincture in CGHS

2533. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the life span of homoeopathic Mother Tincture;

(b) whether the Mother Tincture supplied by M/s. Shiv Shankar, manufactured in the year 1988, can be used safely;

(c) if not, how few CGHS Homoeopathic Dispensaries in Delhi are supplying that Mother Tincture to the beneficiaries;

(d) whether most of the 15 ml phials of Mother Tincture supplied by M/s. Shiv Shankar are found half or quarter filled; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Under the Drugs and Cosmetic Act & Rules thereunder, no "Shelf-life" is assigned to homoeopathic medicines, including Mothers Tincture.

Mother Tincture is purchased after checking its quality.

(d) and (e) In so far as this particular supplier is concerned, there have been instances of sub-standard supply which has resulted in deregistration of the firm from the CGHS rate contract. Action to effect recovery has been initiated.

Posting and transfer criteria in ISM & H

2534. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for postand transfer to the posts of Advisor, Deputy Advisor, Assistant Advisors and Research Officers in the Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy (ISM & H);

(b) whether the posts are interchangeable with CGHS and different Government Laboratories;

(c) if so, how many doctors have been transferred from ISM&H to CGHS and different Laboratories during the last three years; and

(d) whether Government intand to maintain the similar transfer and posting policy in the Department of ISM&H in future also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The criteria for posting and trans-

fer to the post of Advisor, Deputy Advisor, Asstt. Advisor and Research Officers in the Department of ISM &H is suitability of the incumbent as per the prescribed recruitment rules for the said posts and public interest.

(b) The posts are interchangeable between Department of ISM&H and CGHS. However, the posts are not interchangeable between the Department of ISM&H/CGHS and Government Laboratories.

(c) No ISM&H pnysician has been transferred from ISM&H to CGHS during the last 3-4 years.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Complaints regarding financal assistance to needy patients from Minister's discretionary grant

2535. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from various States particularly Andhra Pradesh, relating to provision of financial assistance from the Minister's discretionary grant to the needy patients during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action on these complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Limit of financial assistance for treatment abroad

2536. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of amounts spent in each of the three preceding years on VVIPs treatment for which they had been sent abroad VVIP-wise, year-wise;

(b) whether the treatment facilities were not available in India;

(c) whether there is any limit upto which financial assistance can be given for such treatment;

(d) if so, the details thereof and what are the criteria to decide upon sending them abroad for treatment; and

(e) what steps Government have taken/contemplate to take to improve the medical facilities in Indian hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The information is given in the statement attached (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The cases for treatment abroad are dealt with under Rule 11 of the CS(MA) Rules 1944, according to which a Government servant is eligible for treatment abroad on the recommendation of the Standing Committee of Medical Experts set up for the purpose under the said Rules. Such cases are decided by the Standing Committee on the merits of each case, keeping in view the entire range of madical complications involved. The scale of expenditure and the eligibility for treatment for which a Government servant or a member of his family shall be entitled, shall be identical to the scale of expenditure and the eligibility of an Offi-